

**CLAIM SET AS AMENDED**

1. (Currently Amended) A heat insulator attaching structure for a vehicle exhaust pipe, comprising:

a heat insulator with a cross-section orthogonal to an extending direction thereof being curved substantially into an arc shape is attached to an exhaust pipe of a vehicle engine so as to allow distance therebetween;

an attachment member attached to an inner-peripheral face of the heat insulator, the attachment member being formed with a curved arc-shaped contact portion and an attachment portion, the attachment portion being formed on an outward side of the arc-shaped contact portion in a radial direction thereof so as to allow distance therebetween for attaching the attachment member to the inner-peripheral face of the heat-insulator- insulator, an inner-peripheral face of the arc-shaped contact portion of the attachment member contacting an outer-peripheral face of the exhaust pipe; and

a band member fitted around an outer-peripheral face of the arc-shaped contact portion of the attachment member and the outer-peripheral face of the exhaust pipe, thereby fastening the attachment member to the exhaust pipe,

wherein the band member is provided at an inner side of the heat insulator.

2. (Original) The heat insulator attaching structure for a vehicle exhaust pipe according to claim 1, wherein blocking edge portions are formed in the attachment member,

the blocking edge portions rising on the outer-peripheral face side, at each of two curved edge portions of the arc-shaped contact portion.

3. (Original) The heat insulator attaching structure for a vehicle exhaust pipe according to claim 2, wherein the attachment portions are formed in the attachment member, each on an opposite side of each of the blocking edge portions to the arc-shaped contact portion.

4. (Original) The heat insulator attaching structure for a vehicle exhaust pipe according to claim 3, wherein the band member fits between the blocking edge portions.

5. (Original) The heat insulator attaching structure for a vehicle exhaust pipe according to claim 2, wherein the blocking edge portions extend in a radial direction between the exhaust pipe and the heat insulator, a space being provided between the exhaust pipe and the heat insulator.

6. (Original) The heat insulator attaching structure for a vehicle exhaust pipe according to claim 1, wherein the exhaust pipe is substantially J-shaped, and includes a curved portion and a linear section.

7. (Original) The heat insulator attaching structure for a vehicle exhaust pipe according to claim 6, the heat insulator further comprising a curved section for fitting at least partially around the curved portion of the exhaust pipe, and a linear section for fitting at least partially around the linear portion of the exhaust pipe.

8. (Currently Amended) A saddle-riding vehicle with an engine, comprising:  
an air cleaner attached to a rear side of the engine having an air cleaner element disposed in an upper portion inside an air cleaner case; and  
a heat insulator attaching structure for a vehicle exhaust pipe attached to a front of the engine, the heat insulator attaching structure including:

a heat insulator with a cross-section orthogonal to an extending direction thereof being curved substantially into an arc shape is attached to an exhaust pipe of the engine so as to allow distance therebetween;

an attachment member attached to an inner-peripheral face of the heat insulator, the attachment member being formed with a curved arc-shaped contact portion and an attachment portion, the attachment portion being formed on an outward side of the arc-shaped contact portion in a radial direction thereof so as to allow distance therebetween for attaching the attachment member to the inner-peripheral face of the ~~heat-insulator~~ insulator, an inner-peripheral face of the arc-

shaped contact portion of the attachment member contacting an outer-peripheral face of the exhaust pipe; and

a band member fitted around an outer-peripheral face of the arc-shaped contact portion of the attachment member and the outer-peripheral face of the exhaust pipe, thereby fastening the attachment member to the exhaust pipe,

wherein the band member is provided at an inner side of the heat insulator.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A saddle-riding~~ The saddle-riding vehicle with an engine according to claim 8, wherein blocking edge portions are formed in the attachment member, the blocking edge portions rising on the outer-peripheral face side at each of two curved edge portions of the arc-shaped contact portion.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A saddle-riding~~ The saddle-riding vehicle with an engine according to claim 9, wherein the attachment portions are formed in the attachment member, each on an opposite side of each of the blocking edge portions to the arc-shaped contact portion.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A saddle-riding~~ The saddle-riding vehicle with an engine according to claim 10, wherein the band member fits between the blocking edge portions.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A saddle-riding~~ The saddle-riding vehicle with an engine according to claim 9, wherein the blocking edge portions extend in a radial direction between the exhaust pipe and the heat insulator, a space being provided between the exhaust pipe and the heat insulator.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A saddle-riding~~ The saddle-riding vehicle with an engine according to claim 8, wherein the exhaust pipe is substantially J-shaped, and includes a curved portion and a linear section.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A saddle-riding~~ The saddle-riding vehicle with an engine according to claim 13, the heat insulator further comprising a curved section for fitting at least partially around the curved portion of the exhaust pipe, and a linear section for fitting at least partially around the linear portion of the exhaust pipe.

15. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) ~~An air cleaner for a~~ The saddle-riding vehicle with an engine according to claim 8, further comprising:

an air cleaner element disposed in an upper portion inside an air cleaner case; and  
an air cleaner intake-air duct inserted into the air cleaner case obliquely from above,  
wherein the air cleaner intake-air duct curves inside the air cleaner case and extends to a position directly underneath the air cleaner element.

16. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) ~~The air cleaner for a~~ The saddle-riding vehicle with an engine according to claim 15, wherein substantially an entire opening portion of the air cleaner intake-air duct inside the air cleaner case is opposed to a side wall face of the air cleaner case.

17. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) ~~The air cleaner for a~~ The saddle-riding vehicle with an engine according to claim 16, wherein a drain port is provided in a bottom wall portion of the air cleaner case, at a position upstream of the opening portion in a direction of an air flow at the opening portion of the air cleaner intake-air duct inside the air cleaner case.

18. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) ~~The air cleaner for a~~ The saddle-riding vehicle with an engine according to claim 16, further comprising an attachment-~~portion~~ device on an end of the air cleaner intake-air duct inside the air cleaner case which is attached to a supporting portion provided in a standing manner on the bottom wall portion of the air cleaner case.

19. (New) The heat insulator attaching structure for a vehicle exhaust pipe according to claim 1, wherein the arc-shaped contact portion of the attachment member is substantially semicircular in shape and also makes contacts with substantially half of the outer-peripheral face of the exhaust pipe.

20. (New) The saddle-riding vehicle with an engine according to claim 8, wherein the arc-shaped contact portion of the attachment member is substantially semicircular in shape and also makes contacts with substantially half of the outer-peripheral face of the exhaust pipe.